THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 14, No. 26 (Broadcast 670) June 24, 1968 Dallas, Texas

DAN SMOOT

THE LITTLE OLD LADY IN TENNIS SHOES

The following article by Wes Izzard is reprinted with permission from the May 31, 1968, issue of the Amarillo Daily News.

Events in France seem to have vindicated the little old lady in tennis shoes.

Remember her?

She was the symbol set up by political intellectuals of the left a few years ago, in their crusade to destroy, by ridicule, those Americans who warned of the danger of communism.

She saw a communist under every bed, and sent form letters to her Congressman supporting the Committee on Un-American Activities. Remember?

Many concerned Americans were duly intimidated. They didn't want to be thought stupid, or extremist; so they shut up about the communist menace, and rejoined the mainstream of "liberal" conformity.

Then strange events began to take place.

A President was assassinated. Civil rights demonstrations turned into riots, and riots became guerrilla warfare. Whole neighborhoods were put to the torch. Stores were looted while authority turned its back.

Young men burned their draft cards and trampled on the American flag. College youngsters staged sit-ins at induction centers. Housewives, poets, hippies and baby doctors marched in anti-war parades.

Violence spread to the college campus. Students occupied administration offices, took over entire universities.

J. Edgar Hoover, boss of the FBI, and one of the few friends in high places the little old lady had left, told Congress the communists were behind much of the disorder.

But the political study commissions, appointed by governors and by the President . . . said no. Poverty was to blame — poverty and racism and bigotry. Not communism.

Meanwhile similar disorders were breaking out in other parts of the world . . . .

In Paris it began with the students.

They rioted, not because they didn't like their teachers, but because professional agitators set them off. And if Premier Pompidou is to be believed, the signal was given in Hanoi or Peking.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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The labor unions followed the students out, and the Communist Party in the Assembly saw visions of a political takeover.

France plunged into something near chaos . . . .

DeGaulle had tolerated the communists. He had dealt politically with Moscow, Hanoi, Algiers and other Red capitals. He had traded with them. He was in communist Rumania when the emergency broke out in Paris . . . .

The people who conjured up the little old lady in tennis shoes are still saying that it can't happen here.

But it is happening here — now! . . .

Maybe we should invite the little old lady in tennis shoes over for a cup of tea, and ask her what to do next.

* * * * *

Senator Kennedy's assassination—June 5, 1968—gives further proof that the little old lady in tennis shoes was right all along.

Among the personal effects of Sirhan Sirhan who killed Robert Kennedy (as among the personal effects of Lee Harvey Oswald who killed John Kennedy) were notes, written by the assassin, expressing devotion to communism.

Regrettably and ironically, the two assassinated Kennedys were among the foremost detractors of anti-communists (that is to say, of all the little old ladies in tennis shoes). Both President Kennedy and Senator Kennedy maintained that anti-communists are more dangerous than communists are.

The little old lady in tennis shoes also tried to inform the nation about "collective guilt."

The concept of collective guilt is a manifestation of primitive mentality, whose paganistic superstitions held the whole tribe responsible for the deformities, aberrations, or misdeeds of individuals.

Western civilization, founded on Christian principles of God-given rights and individual responsibility, rejected the concept of collective guilt; but it was revived by communists and made a part of the dogma of dialectical materialism, for the purpose of justifying wholesale confiscation of private property, political persecutions, and mass murders.

Now, this primitive concept of collective guilt—as elaborated and practiced by communists—is being inculcated into the minds of Americans, to whom it should be both a legal and moral monstrosity.

All of Dallas was condemned as a city of hate; and all its people were called upon to make public confession of the sin of hate, because the President was killed here by Lee Harvey Oswald, whom the Kennedy administration had repatriated *after* Oswald had renounced his American citizenship and openly embraced communism.

"White America" was said to be responsible for the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., though King was allegedly murdered by a professional criminal who apparently had already committed enough crimes to have been put away for life, but for the leniency of officialdom, especially the courts.

The murder of Robert Kennedy evoked charges that America is a sick society, though the Senator was killed by a pro-communist immigrant, who was admitted for permanent residence 11 years ago, but who had never even applied for citizenship.[1]

Were these 3 murderers products of American society? Or of an official permissiveness more concerned with the welfare of traitors, defectors, radicals, and criminals than with the security of the nation?

Anti-communists knew and said long ago that political assassination is a communist tactic.

In *all* countries, communists are ever alert to liquidate their known foes, if the liquidation can be made to look like an accident or a result of natural causes. In *some* countries, communists *openly* murder their enemies. In South Vietnam, for example (where communists assassinate about 3000 local officials every year) political assassination is an effective terroristic tactic.[2]

In the United States, however, communists have not yet publicly assassinated a prominent anti-communist. Communists and their liberal friends did everything possible to hurt, humiliate, and

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discredit Martin Dies and the late Senator Joseph McCarthy—but never tried to shoot them down in public. Why? Possibly, communists fear that Americans might be so outraged by such violence that they would glorify the victim and sympathize with his cause. Does it follow that communists, while refraining from assassinating their enemies for fear of martyring them, might arrange assassinations that would create sympathy for something communists want?

If the charge of "collective guilt" were successfully used to place the blame for a communist-arranged assassination, not on the assassin, but on American society—would this not undermine public confidence in American traditions and ideals, thus paving the way for speedier conversion of the constitutional Republic into a socialist dictatorship?

All of this gives plausibility to the theory, held by many well-informed anti-communists, that communists arranged the public murders of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Senator Kennedy. What did communism gain by these 3 murders?

Communists were solidly behind President Kennedy's new-frontier programs. They especially wanted Kennedy's proposed Civil Rights Act, because they knew it would further undermine the American constitutional system and encourage Negro militants to intensify the communist-planned guerrilla warfare against American society.

At the time of his assassination, however, Kennedy's new-frontier programs were stymied in Congress. There was no chance that his Civil Rights Act would ever get out of committee.

Though a communist killed President Kennedy, anti-communists were blamed. Constitutional conservatives who had criticized President Kennedy's programs were charged with having created, by their criticisms, the climate of hate which triggered Lee Harvey Oswald's act. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed as a "tribute to the fallen President," and so were other new-frontier bills. Thus, a heinous crime committed on a Dallas street by a communist had a dual effect enormously helpful to communism: the anti-communist movement was shamed and shattered; and a communist-supported legislative program was enacted.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (member of many communist fronts and associate of known communists) advocated for America an unadulterated communist program. King had become a major menace to the nation; and it was generally believed that certain members of Congress were ready to stop him by disclosing extremely damaging information about him. His murder converted him into a saint, for whom the President ordered the nation to mourn.

King was demanding a federal "open-housing" law, threatening to cause massive lawlessness and general chaos if Congress did not give him what he wanted; and communists, of course, were fully supporting his demand. There seemed little likelihood that Congress would pass the law. But on April 10, 1968, the House—trying to appease King's "mourners" who were sacking and burning the nation's capital—passed the open-housing bill that King and the communists had demanded.

The murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy is being used as fuel in a stupendous propaganda drive for rigid gun-control laws.

Anti-communists have been warning for years that gun-control laws are part of the communist program for imposing dictatorship on the United States: rampaging crime and mob violence are incited and encouraged until the life and property of everyone are endangered; the police are discredited and handicapped so that they cannot adequately protect law-abiding citizens, who are disarmed by gun-control laws so that they cannot protect themselves; the people are then ready to accept dictatorship to restore law and order.

This operation, which the little old ladies in tennis shoes foresaw years ago, is now unfolding before the eyes of all. But many still refuse to see it. Major propagandists for gun-control laws claim to be upset because we have had 3 political assassinations in 5 years; but they do not blame the assassins, or communists. Generally, they blame

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"American society." When they get down to particulars, they blame anti-communists whom they still call "right wing extremists."[3]

As a portent of the decline and fall of American civilization, the spreading anarchy endangering the *total* population *every day* is far more ominous than all the political assassinations that have ever occurred in the United States.

For example, the night Robert Kennedy was murdered, 3 young unarmed Marine officers were murdered in Washington (another officer and a woman companion wounded) by 3 Negro militants who had traveled from California to participate in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Poor People's Campaign. The only provocation given by the Marines was that they wore dress uniforms which the Negroes resented, and one Marine officer's name tag ("King") evoked insulting comments from the Negroes.

Not only back alleys, streets, and parks, but public places, churches, offices and even homes are unsafe places at night for decent people in Washington, D. C., and many other major cities of the United States.

What can we do? We must change leadership.

Today, government itself is lawless, in the sense that it operates programs which clearly violate the supreme law of the land, the Constitution. Political, educational, and religious leaders condone violation of laws which are displeasing to the violators. Government, which has arrogated to itself enough illegal power to eliminate the personal and property rights of all citizens, permits itself to be blackmailed by a lawless minority. Highest government officials — who do not hesitate to enforce their illegal decisions and guidelines upon the states and the people — permit themselves to be publicly insulted by a small band of irresponsible ne'er-do-wells who gather in Washington, occupying public property, demanding special privileges and benefactions to which they have no legal or moral claims and which government has no authority to grant.

Without even being reprimanded for their behavior, small groups of subversives and militants shut down, or take over, great universities, destroy property, trample on the rights of the majority of students, and successfully blackmail university officials.

Courts make the punishment of heinous crimes extremely difficult, often impossible — because "society" is blamed for the criminal acts of individuals.

We must elect political leaders who — instead of urging more gun-control laws to render the people defenseless in a time of anarchy — will demand quick use of police force to arrest, and the meting out of maximum sentences under existing laws to punish, hoodlums who are converting our cities into lawless jungles.

SUGGESTION: Let us mail a copy of "Record of the 90th Congress" to your friends, relatives, business acquaintances, customers, barber, doctor, and anyone else you think needs to know how present members of Congress vote on "civil rights" and other issues related to anarchy in our land. Do not let anyone you know go to the polls in November ignorant of the voting records of incumbents running for reelection to the national Congress. Price $1.00 per name.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Letter to constituents, June 10, 1968, from U.S. Representative Ed Reinecke

(2) *Tactics*, May 20, 1968—edited and published by Edward Hunter, P.O. Box 3541, Arlington, Va. 22203, subscription $10.00 a year

(3) Comments of Senator Joseph D. Tydings—Maryland Democrat—criticizing "right-wing extremists" who "oppose any kind of gun law," on the June 9, 1968, *Meet The Press* program which was billed "National Rifle Association—A Front for the Gunmakers"

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